

his day to show during the sixteen centuries preceding the Reformation, one Church which had been ordered by their regimen, or one Church which had not been ordered by the Episcopal regimen since the time that the blessed Apostles were conversant here on earth.

It was the apprehension of this fact, the continuous existence of a Three-fold Ministry in the Church, and the limitation of the power of Ordination to the first and highest Order that led to the conversion from Congregationalism to the Church of England of a well-known clergyman in London, who died a few years ago. I allude to the Rev. Dr. Gibson, for many year Rector of Bethnal Green, London. I asked him, on one occasion, what led him to join the Church of England. He detailed to me at some length, the reasons that led him to be dissatisfied with the Congregational system in which he had been educated, and of which he was a Minister: and at last, he said, I sat down to read the whole history of the Church from the beginning; and when I came on this startling fact meeting me on every page of Church History, from the first to the sixteenth century, that during all those centuries no one had ever dared to minister at the Church's altars without receiving Episcopal Ordination, I made up my mind that I would never again minister till I had received Episcopal Ordination. He then applied to the Bishop of Exeter, in whose Diocese he had been exercising his duties as a Congregational Minister, and in due course he was ordained a Deacon, and then a Priest of the Church of God.

---

To conclude.

You should pray for God's Ministers, that by their preaching and living they may set forth God's Holy Word.

And you should pray for yourselves, that you may profit by the ministry of God's Holy Word, which you enjoy.

The Collect for St. Peter's Day is a suitable one to use: "O Almighty God, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to Thy Apostle St. Peter many excellent gifts, and commandest him earnestly to feed Thy flock: make, we beseech Thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach Thy Holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."